Home Affairs has been initiated. The NDMA will, *inter alia*, be responsible for coordinating mandating Government's policies for disaster reduction/mitigation, ensuring adequate preparedness at all levels; coordinating response to a disaster when it strikes and coordination of post disaster relief and rehabilitation. The State Governments have been advised to consider setting up State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA) under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary for coordinating the aforementioned functions at State level. The NDMA, which will coordinate all functions at apex level, will be a permanent organization. Action has also been initiated to train and equip specialized search and rescue teams at National level which will function as Rapid Response Units in case of a disaster. The State Governments have also been advised to consider setting up specialized search and rescue teams for this purpose.

Specialized rescue team for disaster

812. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have advised all the State Government to set up specialized search and rescue teams to tackle emergency disastrous situation like earthquake, storm train accidents and fire etc;

(b) if so, the names of States that have formed as well as those that have not formed such teams; and

(c) in view of increase in train accidents and earthquakes the steps that have been taken by Government against the States who have not formed any kind of specialized rescue team for disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) In December, 2002, the Ministry of Home Affairs, *inter-alia*, advised the State Governments to consider setting up specialized composite search and rescue teams comprising one coy. of the State Armed Police trained and equipped to carry out specialized search and rescue, one mobile engineering unit with necessary equipments and one medical assistance team. The State Governments have also been advised that the teams may be trained together so as to

function as a unit under the overall charge of a designated officer. The steps taken by the State Governments will be reviewed in the Conference of Relief Commissioners of the State Governments in March, 2003.

Children staying in jails with their mothers

813. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how children staying in jail with their mothers, are looked after by the jail authorities;

(b) whether adequate nutritional and educational arrangements are being made for these children;

(c) whether the Supreme Court had issued notice to the Ministry of Home Affairs on women and children to improve the conditions of children in the jail; and

(d) if so, whether the Ministry has taken notice of Supreme Court's anxiety and has it improved the situation in the jails.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Food, clothes, education, creche and other facilities to children staying in jails with their prisoner mothers are provided according to the provisions of the respective jail Manuals of the States/UTs.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Home Affairs is alive to the condition of women in jail and children staying in jails with their prisoner mothers, and share the concern of the Supreme Court in the matter. Besides providing financial support, it has also been advising the State Governments/Union Territories Administrations from time to time to take special measures to improve the condition of women in jails and the children living with them.

Reasons for floods in H.P.

†814. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to ascertain basic reasons of severe flood three years back in Kinnaur, the border district of Himachal Pradesh which caused great loss to life and property;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.